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has been directed to the making of valuable hybrids. Only a year or two ago a special Orchid Section was organized in the New York Horticultural Society to promote the cultivation and popularity of these wonderful plants by means of addresses, pamphlets, and public exhibitions. In the conservatories at the New York Botanical Garden the orchid houses are especially well filled, and the collection is being rapidly increased by gifts and by exploring parties sent by the garden into various parts of tropical America.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

NEWS ITEMS

On Saturday, May 24, 1913, the ninth public meeting of the Sullivant Moss Society was held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Brooklyn Institute Museum, with the President of the Society, Prof. Alexander W. Evans, of Yale University, presiding. At the morning session, held in the museum building, colored lantern slides of mosses and hepatics were exhibited by Dr. Abel J. Grout, and papers were presented by Miss Caroline Coventry Haynes, Mr. G. K. Merrill, Miss Annie Lorenz (read by Dr. Edward B. Chamberlain), Dr. Otto E. Jennings (read by Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith), and Dr. George Hall Conklin. Photographs and autographs of bryologists were exhibited by Mrs. Smith, Vice-President of the Society, and a collection of works on Bryophyta by Miss Hutchinson, the librarian of the museum. Herbarium specimens of mosses and hepatics were also exhibited by Mr. E. L. Morris, curator of natural history. After luncheon at a local restaurant a trip was made through the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, including the first sections of the laboratory building and conservatories now nearing completion and to the local flora garden. The session closed with a visit to the hall of botany of the museum, where were exhibited wax models of fungi, and glass models of fungi and algae recently made, specially for the museum collections.

The remaining lectures for the summer course at the New York Botanical Garden on Saturday afternoons are as follows: July 5,

"The Hempstead Plains: A Natural Eastern Prairie," by Mr. Norman Taylor; July 12, "Swamps: Ancient and Modern," by Dr. Arthur Hollick; July 19, "The Flora and Scenery of the Southern Rocky Mountains," by Dr. P. A. Rydberg; July 26, "Water Gardens," by Mr. G. V. Nash. The lectures, which occupy an hour, will be illustrated by lantern slides and otherwise. Doors closed at 4:00 P.M.

We learn from the daily press of the death of George W. Letterman, near St. Louis, on May 28. The "*Times*" writes in part of his life thus: "George W. Letterman, aged 72, a recluse and botanist, died in poverty and attended only by a negro neighbor in his little cabin at Allenton, thirty miles west of St. Louis, last night. Mr. Letterman had lived in Allenton for thirty years. For twenty years he was a teacher in the public school there. He was a bachelor. Throughout his long stay in Allenton the botanist lived alone in his one-room cabin, spending most of his time in the woods in search of rare plants and trees. Many distinguished American and European scientists made pilgrimages to his cabin and went on excursions with him through his beloved woods along the Meramec. Many rare plants which he discovered were named after him. . . . Harvard professorships twice were offered to Mr. Letterman, but he waived them aside as temptations, preferring the woods to halls of learning." Some of the genera containing species named for him are *Vernonia*, *Poa*, *Stipa*, and *Crataegus*. It does not appear that he ever published anything.

Mr. Maurice Picard, A.M. (Columbia, 1911), has been appointed assistant professor of botany in Middlebury College.

Mr. H. E. Vasey has been appointed field assistant in agricultural botany at the University of Nebraska. Hestor M. Rusk, A.B. (Columbia), has been appointed instructor in agricultural botany at the same institution.

The American Phytogeographic Excursion, under the direction of Professor H. C. Cowles, has announced the final plans for the trip during August and September. The party will leave New York on July 30, stopping at Niagara Falls en route to Chicago, where eight days will be spent. Lincoln, Nebraska,

will be the next stop, from which the party will go to Colorado. Salt Lake City, Tacoma, Medford, and San Francisco will be reached by relatively quick stages, a week being spent in the vicinity of the latter place, including an excursion to the Yosemite National Park. On Sunday, September 14, the party will reach Carmel, California, from which they will go to Mecca and thence to Tucson, Arizona. At the latter place headquarters will be at the Desert Botanical Laboratory. The official excursion will close here on September 23, the party returning to New York via whatever route individuals may select. Further particulars may be had from Dr. H. C. Cowles, University of Chicago.

At the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, changes in the staff have occurred as follows: Dr. E. P. Sandsten, professor of horticulture and state horticulturist, resigns to accept a similar appointment in Colorado State College. A. B. Massey, formerly assistant professor of botany and bacteriology in Clemson College, becomes assistant professor of botany. H. N. Conolly, field agent in horticulture, resigns to accept similar work in Colorado State College.

At the dedication of a new "Plant Industry Hall" at the University of Nebraska on June 10, the dedication address was made by Dr. J. M. Coulter, of the University of Chicago. His subject was "Practical Science." Following the exercises the building was thrown open to the public.

A biological expedition is being sent out by the University of the Philippines and the Bureau of Science. It started from Manila on April 5 for Taytay Bay on the northeastern coast of the Island of Palawan, and will remain in the field for two months. The party will consist of Dr. Merrill, chief of the division of botany of the Bureau of Science, Mr. Schultze, entomologist of the Bureau of Science, Mr. Rowley, instructor in geology, of the University of the Philippines, Messrs. Griffin, Cowles, Wharton, Day and Light, of the department of zoölogy of the university, and Mr. Barnes, teacher of zoölogy of the Bureau of Education. Including the assistants and laborers, the working party will consist of about twenty-five persons. The expedition will be under the direction of Professor Griffin. The region to

which the party goes is entirely unexplored, but is said to be extremely rich in its fauna and flora.

Dr. Philip Dowell will spend July and August as assistant curator at the United States National Museum, Division of Plants.

Dr. William A. Murrill is in Europe, studying types of fungi and the effect of tar dust on the trees planted on roads where the surface binding is of tar.

At the Johns Hopkins University Dr. Edward W. Berry has been advanced from associate to associate professor of paleobotany, Dr. D. S. Johnson has been appointed director of the botanical garden, and Dr. B. E. Livingston has been appointed director of the laboratory of plant physiology.

The Geological Survey of Alabama has just issued Part I of the Economic Botany of Alabama, a geographical report, including descriptions of the natural divisions of the state, their forests and forest industries; by Roland M. Harper, Ph.D., who has been gathering the material for this report since 1905, in every county in the state. It is a booklet of 228 pages, including a colored map and 63 half-tone views of forest scenery and industries. The edition is limited to 3,000 copies, and most of these will go to libraries and individuals already on their mailing list. But as long as the supply lasts a copy will be sent on request to any address in the United States on receipt of seven cents in ordinary postage stamps (not parcel post stamps) to cover postage. Applications should be addressed to Eugene A. Smith, University, Ala.

On the seventh of June the second edition of Britton and Brown's "Illustrated Flora" was published by Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York. A review of this work will appear in *TORREYA* for August.

A continuation of last year's botanical collection and study will be made along the northwestern shore of Lake Superior, and inland from there, during the present summer by Dr. and Mrs. O. E. Jennings, of the Carnegie Museum. Operations began at Fort William about June 20.